Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An expandable medical device comprising:

a plurality of cylindrical tubes each formed of a plurality of adjacent struts interconnected at alternating ends, the plurality of cylindrical tubes expandable from a first diameter to a second diameter at which the adjacent struts each form a substantially V-~~shapes~~ shape, and each V-shape having a midline parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent, wherein the plurality of cylindrical tubes are arranged with the interconnected ends of the struts aligned facing each other in adjacent cylindrical tubes;

a plurality of S-shaped bridging elements connected between the interconnected ends of the struts in adjacent cylindrical tubes, wherein each of the bridging elements are connected entirely above a midline of each of the V-shapes on one cylindrical tube and entirely below the midline of each of the V-shapes on an adjacent cylindrical tube;

wherein each of the bridging elements cross the midline of the V-shapes three times; and

wherein said adjacent struts are interconnected at alternating ends to define an apex for each V-shape, and wherein said midlines ~~connect~~ connected directly ~~opposed~~ opposite the V-shape apices are directed at each other.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the S-shaped bridging elements have an undulating shape extending through greater than 360 degrees.

3. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the bridging elements are located at a diagonal orientation such that a line extending through the connecting points on either end of each of the bridging elements is located at an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical tubes.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3, wherein all the bridging elements interconnecting two adjacent ones of the cylindrical tubes are located at the same diagonal orientation.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the bridging elements have a width less than a width of the struts.

7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of adjacent struts are interconnected by ductile hinges and circumferential links.

8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the bridging elements allow the device to bend axially.

9. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of cylindrical tubes are arranged with the interconnected struts in one tube substantially at 180 degrees out of phase with respect to the adjacent cylindrical tubes.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~10~~ 17, wherein the S-shaped bridging elements have an undulating shape extending through greater than 360 degrees.

12. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~10~~ 17, wherein the bridging elements are located at a diagonal orientation such that a line extending through the connecting points on either end of each of the bridging element is located at an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical tubes.

13. (Original) The device of claim 12, wherein all the bridging elements interconnecting two adjacent ones of the cylindrical tubes are located at the same diagonal orientation.

14. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~10~~ 17, wherein the bridging elements have a width less than a width of the struts.

15. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~10~~ 17, wherein the plurality of adjacent struts are interconnected by ductile hinges and circumferential links.

16. (Currently amended) The device of claim ~~10~~ 17, wherein the bridging elements allow the device to bend axially.

17. (Previously presented) An expandable medical device comprising:

a plurality of cylindrical tubes each formed of a plurality of adjacent struts interconnected at alternating ends, the plurality of cylindrical tubes expandable from a first diameter to a second diameter at which the adjacent struts each form substantially V-shapes having a midline parallel to the longitudinal axis of the stent, wherein the plurality of cylindrical tubes are arranged with the interconnected ends of the struts aligned facing each other in adjacent cylindrical tubes;

a plurality of S-shaped bridging elements connected between the interconnected ends of the struts in adjacent cylindrical tubes, wherein each of the bridging elements are connected entirely above a midline of ~~the~~ a V-~~shapes~~ shape on one cylindrical tube and entirely below ~~the~~ a midline of the V-~~shapes~~ shape on an adjacent cylindrical tube;

wherein each of the bridging elements cross the midline of ~~the~~ a V-~~shapes~~ shape three times; and

wherein said adjacent struts interconnected at alternating ends define an apex for each V-shape, and wherein said bridging elements extend between directly opposed V-shape apices in a first of said plurality of cylindrical tubes and said V-shape apices in a second of said plurality of cylindrical tubes.